

H Materials needed:

One 11 in. piece of 1" X 8" untreated, rough-sided cedar (Actual measurements will be slightly smaller).

One 11 in. piece of 1" X 10" untreated rough-sided cedar (This will be the top of the bat box).

Approximately 20 six-penny galvanized nails to a few common questions about Mammoth Cave National Park.

What are the features of this park?

Mammoth Cave National Park encompasses 52,830 acres in south central Kentucky, commemorating the diverse geological, biological and historical features associated with the longest cave in the world. The surface landscape highlights rare plants and dense forest, a diverse aquatic ecosystem in the Green and Nolin Rivers, and hallmark geologic features of a classic karst terrain. Great Onyx Job Corps Center, under the Department of Labor, is located in the park on the north side of the Green River.

What is the history of this place?

Native Americans discovered Mammoth Cave about 4,000 years ago and continued to use the cave until 2,000 years ago. In the early 1800s settlers "rediscovered" the cave, and during the War of 1812 slaves mined saltpetre from the cave sediments to be used in the manufacture of gunpowder. Tours began in 1816, increasing the cave's popularity. In 1926, the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission recommended the cave, hilly country, and rivers of the Mammoth Cave region for national park status. Between 1926 and 1941, the Mammoth Cave National Park Association purchased land for the future park and eventually sold it to the federal government for \$1. Mammoth Cave National Park was authorized in 1926, established on July 1, 1941, designated a World Heritage Site in 1981, and became the core area of an International Biosphere Reserve in 1990.

What is there to do in the park?

The park has 14 miles of developed cave trails, 31 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers to canoe and fish, 101 miles of roads to drive, and 73 miles of horse and hiking trails. Visitors can participate in ranger-led cave trips and surface

walks, campfire and amphitheatre programs, and children's activities, hike, picnic, backpack, camp, ride horseback, boat, fish, and take a one-hour concessions-operated cruise on the Green River. School groups can participate in the Environmental Education program. Reservations are strongly recommended for cave trips and are required for school group programs. Concessioners operate canoe and horse liveryes. Overnight accommodations and a campstore are within the park. Some facilities are handicapped accessible.

How many people use the park?

In 1995, the park had:

517,129 visitors on 6,183 cave tours

50,131 visitors on 1,191 ranger-led surface activities

67,458 visitors in the campgrounds

53,463 backcountry hikers

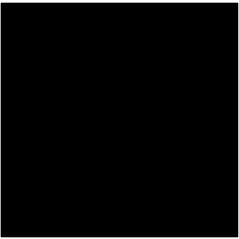
7,762 visitors using the Green and Nolin rivers

What lives in the park?

Mammoth Cave National Park is one of the greatest protectors of plants and animals in Kentucky – underground and on the surface.

In the cave: Of the over 130 species documented in the cave, 12 are eyeless, unpigmented cave dwellers found only in Mammoth Cave and its immediate vicinity. Over millions of years, many of these species were isolated from other caves, resulting in fragile and unique populations. Three endangered species – Kentucky cave shrimp, Indiana bat and Gray bat – call Mammoth Cave home.

On the surface: While most of the park consists of second-growth woodland, a number of plant communities – wetlands, prairie, hemlocks and other northern plants growing in cool, moist ravines – harbor many of the park's rare species. Plant communities support deer, raccoon, opossum, gray squirrel, rabbit, woodchuck, muskrat, beaver, red fox, coyote, and wild turkey. The Green River supports an unusual diversity of fish, including three species of cave fish and five surface species found nowhere else in the world. Freshwater mussels live in the river sand, gravel and mud.



In all, Mammoth Cave National park hosts:
Over 900 plant species, 21 endangered
Over 400 animal species, 10 endangered
Over 130 animal species that use the cave on a
regular basis.

What does it take to run this park?

Our budget in 1994 for Mammoth Cave National Park was \$4,984,200. The park budget in 1995 was \$5,159,600. The budget for Great Onyx Job Corps in 1994 was \$4,119, 669, and \$3,582,737 in 1995.

The park employed 96 permanent staff and 34 seasonal or temporary staff in 1995; Great Onyx Job Corps Center employed 55 permanent staff in 1995.

How much cave is down there?

Nobody knows. As of March 1995, the Cave Research Foundation had mapped and surveyed 345 miles of passage, but discovery continues. In addition to exploring and mapping the cave, CRF also contributes to our knowledge of the cave through many research projects.

How can I get more information?

For park information, call (502)758-2328 or write:

Superintendent
Mammoth Cave National Park
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

On the **Internet**, search the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.nps.gov/macac/>

For area information, dial (800)346-8908

For **cave tour reservations**, contact Destinet at
(800)967-2283